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UNOFFICIALS' BUDGET CRITICISM

"Impossible To Make Intelligent Comments"

R.N. Chinese On Drugs Charge

Yokohama, Mar. 27.
An Anglo-American criminal investigation drive has uncovered a valuable drug hoard aboard a British warship, and the authorities announced today that their efforts were believed to have smashed a Chinese black market narcotics ring.

A roundup of the ring members began with the apprehension of Lai Pong-lee, an alleged black market broker in Yokohama's Chinatown. Lai was found in possession of 135 vials of penicillin, quantities of sulfadiazine and morphine and US\$269.

Agents then picked up Hui Wo and Kwong Wing-chee, crew members of the British cruiser Bermuda docked in Yokohama harbour. Investigation aboard the warship uncovered an additional 194 vials of penicillin, 27 bottles of anesthetic and large quantities of other drugs.

A single vial of penicillin now sells at around \$60 or \$700 yen at the military conversion rate in the black market.

The Bermuda left Hong Kong on March 15. It was recalled that it was the second time in recent weeks that a ship from Hong Kong had been found carrying illegal drugs.—United Press.

M.G.M. HEAD SUED FOR DIVORCE

Los Angeles, Mar. 28.
Louis B. Mayer, multimillionaire head of the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Motion Picture concern, was sued in the Superior Court by his wife Margaret Mayer, 43.
She accused him of "willfully" living apart from her.—Associated Press.

EARL DEAD

London, Mar. 27.
The death occurred today of the Earl of Caithness, 84, at his Aberdeenshire home at Ellon. Heir to the title is his nephew, Brigadier James Sinclair.—United Press.

England Was Too Much For Mitzi

London, Mar. 26.
One London paper told the other side of the story today. Reversing the nationalistic picture painted by newspapers in London recently in describing the untoward experiences of British GI brides in the United States, the "Evening Standard" reported from New York that "London was too much for Mitzi" an American who married a British sailor.

Mitzi, 19-year-old, was shipped home and he and Mitzi corresponded for two years until she arrived in London last year to marry him.

My neighbours in New York point me out as 'that girl who married a Limey.' Mitzi said.

They noticed my torn shoes and shabby clothes the moment I got home. They don't understand how little there was to buy in England.

Income Tax: "Last Grand Autocratic Fling"

Hong Kong's Budget for 1947-48, involving ordinary expenditure of \$110,488,433, was given its second reading in Legislative Council yesterday, following a debate during which Unofficial Members were critical of the manner in which the Colony's accounts had been presented.

"It is practically impossible," said the Hon. Dr. S. N. Chau, "to make intelligent comments on the totals of the estimates of revenue and expenditure as presented," and the Hon. Mr. D. F. Landale, who preceded him said; "I do not consider the accounts as presented give sufficient information on which to form a proper judgment on the Budget."

On the subject of Income Tax, comments were reserved. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Mark Young) winding up the debate, said that the important question of the standard rate is to be considered before the Bill is finally settled, and the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almada, in the course of a vigorous speech, attacked the proposal strongly as "a last grand autocratic fling before this Colony is allowed to govern itself."

The Hon. Mr. T. N. Chau summed up the Unofficial attitude on the Budget, commenting that while it "by no means arouses our enthusiasm, it is likewise not one to cause despondency."

"Open to correction," said the Hon. Mr. M. M. Watson, "I feel at the present time that the Government is, if anything, skipping some essential services that should be rendered to the public."

The Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo referred to the "staggering sum" of \$53,293,000, the net cost of the civil service by way of emoluments and allowances, and added: "There can be no doubt that the problem of the overall cost of the civil service is one of increasing gravity for the Colony."

A Relief
Said the Hon. Mr. R. D. Gillespie: "It is a relief to find the Colony is in a far less desperate plight than one had dreamt of last September."

The Hon. Attorney-General (Mr. J. B. Griffin) disclosed that legislation implementing the recommendations of the Tenancy Committee is to be presented to Legislative Council shortly, and Mr. C. G. S. Follows (Hon. Financial Secretary) replying to points raised regarding the lifting of the Moratorium, said that while there was no change in the situation at present, progress is being made.

Following are the speeches in full:

MR. D. F. LANDALE

Demand For Further Information

The Hon. Mr. D. F. Landale said:—As I understand the figures for this year's Budget will be referred to a Select Committee, it would be a waste of this Council's time to refer to the comments I have to make on the individual items. There

In my remarks on last year's Budget I expressed the hope that when the actual figures of expenditure for the year 1946/47 came to be compared with the estimates there would not be too many discrepancies. When I made this remark I had in mind the possibility of the actual deficit being even greater than the estimated. The fact that the deficit has been considerably reduced and for the ensuing year a balanced Budget has been submitted surely indicates a very satisfactory financial position. For, if any, other liberated territories have achieved a balanced Budget so soon after liberation. All this makes me wonder whether the surplus shown has not been under-estimated. I admit of course that the balancing figure is the controversial item of \$16,000,000 to be derived from the Inland Revenue Tax which has yet to be passed by this Council. I do not propose to discuss this measure at this meeting but I should like to repeat what I said in my remarks on last year's Budget—

"There is no doubt in my mind that Income Tax as applied in the United Kingdom is the most equitable form of taxation. There is, however, a very grave doubt in my mind whether it is possible to apply the United Kingdom form of income tax with the same degree of equity in a place like Hong Kong. To this I should now like to add that it should only be resorted to if the revenue of the Colony really requires it."

Not Yet
I submit, Your Excellency, that the revenue of the Colony does not yet need it.

I make this remark in the light of the very meagre facts that have been put forward. We are told that the Government

U.S. His Mother's Only Chance

Honolulu, Mar. 26.
A tall, clear-eyed Dutch youth who hitchhiked more than half-way around the world without visas or money said he would keep on trying to enter the United States even if he is deported—because living there was his ailing mother's "one chance for happiness."

William Tellekamp, 17, was arrested on Friday when he stepped off a B-20 from Guam wearing RAF uniform without insignia. He was charged with illegal entry into United States territory. He has since found a number of friends who are trying to help him to get to Boston, where he wants to be an engineer.

Fifteen teenage Sunday school class members raised his \$500 bail and added more for living expenses until his hearing next Monday.

The FBI is investigating his story of flying across the Pacific through the strongly guarded bases of Guam and Kwajalein in Army planes.

Immigration officers were at a loss to understand how he passed through 17 countries, from Holland to Honolulu with no papers or funds. Tellekamp said: "There are many good people still in the world, especially in the air force." The youth told United Press that he was a native of Sumatra, where his father was a planter.—United Press.

SHANGHAI BOOM IN SHARES

Shanghai, Mar. 26.
Rumours that they will eventually be quoted on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange sent open market quotations of foreign shares here soaring to record heights today. Ewo Cotton Mills, which stood at CN\$15,700 on Monday night, touched CN\$23,000 at the close this morning while Shanghai Rockwool rose during the same period from CN\$17,000 to CN\$26,000.—Reuter.

Chiang To Visit U.S.?

Nanking, Mar. 26.
A high Foreign Office source today denied press reports originating in London that the Generalissimo planned to visit the United States in April.

Competent quarters believed, however, that the trip is not altogether beyond the realm of possibility.

The Foreign Office source said the Foreign Ministry would have to handle diplomatic arrangements for the visit but so far nothing of that nature has gone through the office.

Other quarters said it was known that Chiang Kai-shek has been harbouring a wish to meet President Truman in personal talks on Sino-American relations, especially relating to economic matters and the Communist problem.

Last year, when Truman indicated that he would proceed to the Philippines to attend the independence ceremony, the Foreign Ministry announced that the Generalissimo would go there too but he cancelled the trip when Truman altered his plans.

The London reports have given rise to new speculation that Chiang may make a visit to the United States next month.—United Press.

C.I.D. Man's Escape

Jerusalem, Mar. 27.
Extremists unsuccessfully tried to assassinate the British chief C.I.D. agent of Tel-Aviv today and escaped after wounding his two Palestine police bodyguards.

Three dark-skinned youths, believed to be Irgunists, fired several pistol shots at the CID chief and his bodyguards as they approached the Tel-Aviv police headquarters. They covered their escape by tossing hand-grenades at their pursuers.

A joint military and police search was launched.—United Press.

Death Threat To Consul

Alexandria, Mar. 27.
The United States Consul, Mr. A. H. Doolittle, has been threatened with death for failing to fly the Egyptian flag alongside the Consulate's Stars and Stripes, it was revealed today.

A letter signed the "Egyptian Committee of National Liberation" said "We sent you a letter demanding the hoisting of the Egyptian flag but you failed to execute the order. This shows lack of respect for Egyptian feeling. Therefore, the Committee has decided to assassinate the Consul despite any security measures and in broad daylight."

The letter, which was found unattended in the Consulate letterbox, also warned the United States Consulate would be blown up on Friday.—United Press.

COAL MINE DISASTER

Centuria, Ill., Mar. 27.
Rescue workers found 11 more bodies early today near the centre of the blast area deep in the Centuria coal mine bringing to 25 the number of known dead.

It is feared the 27 miners still unaccounted for are dead. The 11 bodies found today were badly mutilated. Workers reported finding 11 bodies "perhaps more than 100 feet below the surface" and said that the explosion was impossible to explain.

Flood Waters On The Way Out

London, Mar. 27.
The flood waters are receding throughout Britain. The Thames is dropping four or five inches per day and the rate of flow is now 7,000,000,000 gallons daily—one half of the figures at the height of the floods but still nearly four times normal.

In the Fenslands the river levels are falling about one inch per day, but it is estimated it will be two months before the rich farmland can be pumped clear of water.

The main road routes from southern England to South Wales are now open to all traffic though there is still water on the roads in some places.

Thousands of persons are still marooned and the Northern Command troops today concentrated flood relief services at Balby, near Selby, where the River Ouse has broken its banks and made a new course.

Troops from the School of Military Engineering at Ripon were planning a major operation to breach the gap with one hundred pontoons, and thousands of sandbags.

Water was flowing into bedrooms and "Ducks" and small boats were evacuating householders to Riccall Airfield where they are being fed from a dozen Army cookers.

The Flood Control Headquarters at Balby maintained contact by radio with the Northern Command at York and with drivers of "Ducks," most of whom had been working 48 hours without rest and were nearly exhausted. Relief crews have been sent.

Firemen To Help

The position at Selby improved because of the Balby flood, and the position at York was easier today. At the latter place, the flood waters were receding, the waterworks were saved and the Army moved one thousand tons of flour in to maintain the bread supply.

Meanwhile, London, firemen were called today to help in pumping the flooded Fens. Firemen from the Fens were also called today to help in pumping the flooded Fens.

MIXED REACTION TO NEW LOAN

Shanghai, Mar. 27.
The Chinese Government's decision to float four hundred million U.S. dollar Treasury notes and bonds was received with mixed feelings here.

While certain financial circles welcomed the step as an effective means of absorbing idle capital which is often blamed for the wild speculations that aggravated China's economic chaos, other quarters question whether the present is the right time for such a large flotation, especially in view of the general lack of confidence in the Government's economic policy.

In this connection, only 24 hours before the decision was made public, Dr. K. M. Hsu, the well-known local Chinese banker, told a meeting here that the medium of raising money through insurance bonds was "no longer workable due to the lack of public confidence in a Government which failed to live up to its promises and the terms of the bonds already issued, for example the gold and United States currency bonds issued in Chungking during the war."

In Nanking today Legislative Yuan approval was given to the Government's issue of short-term Treasury notes equal to \$300,000,000 U.S. currency and Government bonds totalling US\$100,000,000. Both will be available for purchase in April.

The proposed measure was presented to the Legislative Yuan by Finance Minister O.K. Yul, who explained that in the past the National Government, in order to meet the budget deficit was obliged to increase the bank note issue.

Now, he declared, as well as readjusting taxes and increasing revenue, it is proposed to issue bonds in order to absorb idle capital and re-direct national economy to reconstruction and productive channels.

Sound Loan
The Government order freezing dealings in United States currency and gold is a good measure, he stated, but has created further idle capital. The floating of the present loan will give an outlet to this capital.

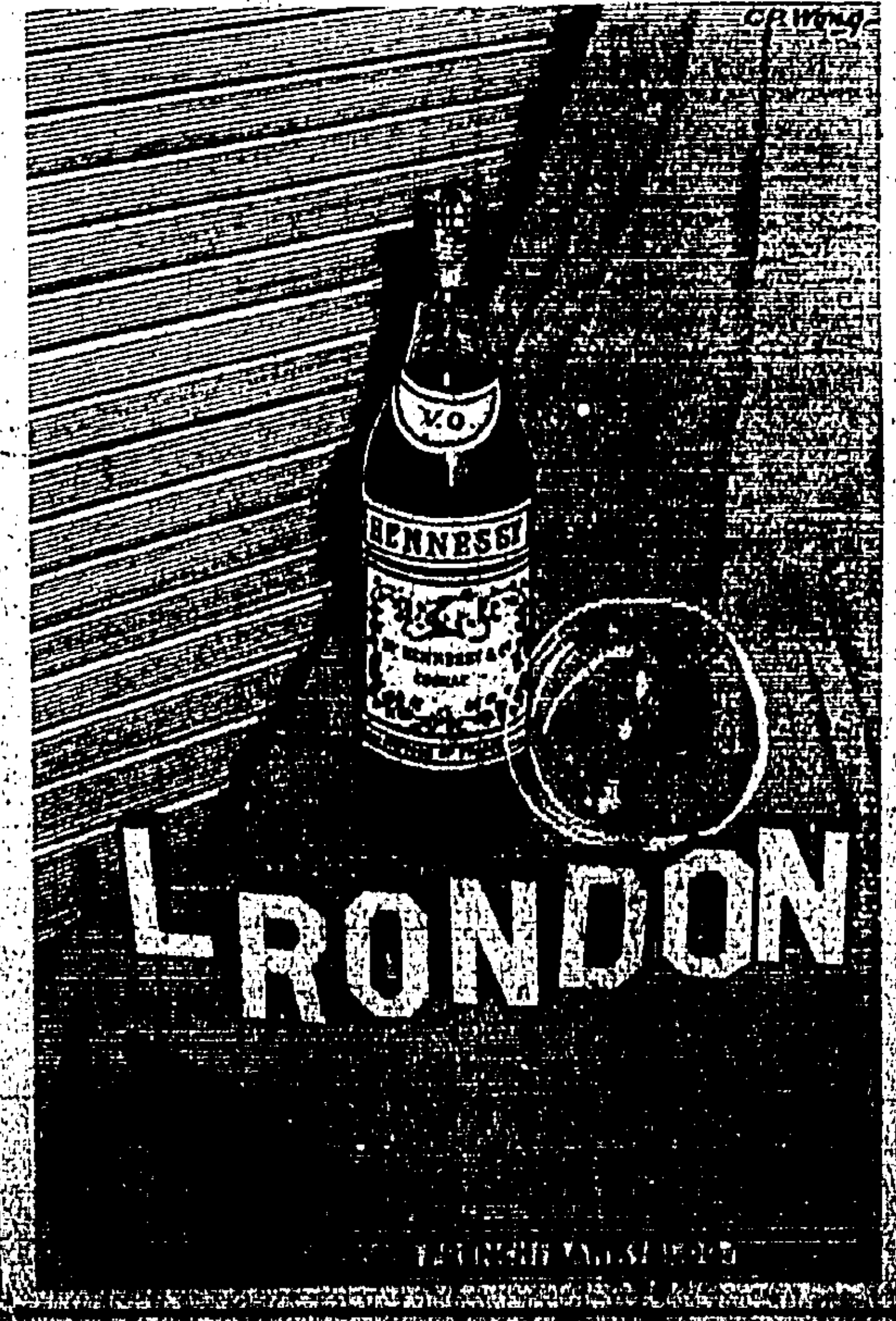
Concluding his address with assurance that the public loan will be sound, Minister Yul was applauded.

The Director of the Ministry of Finance Loan Department, Mr. T. Chen, who presented details of the Government's plan to the Legislative Yuan for investigation, Committee, told Reuter that the notes and bonds will be available for purchase.

Bonds may be purchased with United States notes or drafts of other foreign currencies such as the pound sterling, or francs to be converted into United States dollars at the Central bank rate and the gold dollar rate to be fixed by special order of the Ministry of Finance. The gold rate will be "a little better than the one now existing."

For both Treasury notes and bonds sinking fund will be established and will be supervised by a committee made up of Government officials and representatives of various civic organizations.—Reuter.

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REPORT ON H. K. HAWKERS Committee Recommends Gradual Abolition Establishment Of Markets

The gradual abolition of hawking, as the ideal long-term policy, is recommended in the report of the Committee on Hawking, which was released by Government yesterday. For a short-term policy under present circumstances, the Committee puts forward 10 main recommendations.

These include the establishment of hawkers' markets, including privately-owned markets; the institution of a Pedlar's Licence; the virtual banning of all save newspaper hawkers from the centre of the city and other crowded areas; deportation for persons convicted of hawking offences who have four previous convictions for similar offences; and the greatest possible publicity beforehand for any measures decided on, before they are put into effect.

The report, which is a lengthy document of 19 pages, with seven more pages of appendices, is signed by T. Megarry (chairman), J. P. Heilly, D. W. MacIntosh, Thos. F. Ryan, M. W. Lo, G. She and Shin Tak-hing. After setting out the terms of reference, etc. the report goes on to say that the drawbacks on any system of stationary hawking are only too evident. In summary, they might be tabulated as follows:—

Hawkers (in particular stall-holding hawkers) constitute a standing source of obstruction to traffic. They represent a potential hindrance to the Police when it becomes necessary quickly to clear a street in operations against robbers, and a source of grave trouble to the Fire Brigade.

Many, streets, by reason of their narrowness and steepness, present quite enough difficulties to through traffic without the added encumbrances of hawkers and their impedimenta. Shopkeepers also have legitimate grounds of complaint against hawkers, who block up the means of access to their shops and compete unfairly with their trade.

Hawkers are a constant source of danger to the public health, since (a) their stalls obstruct the work of scavenging the streets; (b) they litter the streets with refuse which attracts vermin and breeds flies; and (c) they have neither enough space nor proper equipment for keeping food hygienic and sterilising cutting utensils.

Contamination
Food sold in the streets might, particularly readily become a source of contamination for transfer into houses, and even if complete safeguards cannot be devised to take effect within dwellings, adequate precautions should at least be taken in the streets. Any partial achievement in this regard has value, even if perfection is not attained, continues the report.

Hawkers, who have to pay no comparable overhead expenses, compete unfairly with shopkeepers and market stall-holders, who pay rents, rates, and their share of indirect taxes as persons who have a definite permanent stake in the Colony.

The competition of hawkers is so severe that shopkeepers even go to the length of hiring hawkers to dispose of goods for them and market stall-holders are induced to desert their stalls in order to hawk in the streets, aggravating a situation already serious enough.

Hawkers, says the Committee, bring into existence gangs of criminal persons who prey upon them in order to exact so-called "protection money." Although the blame for these corrupt practices cannot be laid entirely at the door of the hawkers, the fact that they exist without licences or proper control in such vast numbers provides a fertile field for the extortion of bribes on the part of some unscrupulous persons in the lower "Police ranks" and in the ranks of the Triad societies.

Attraction To Destitute.
The possibility of hawking attracts large numbers of destitute or semi-destitute persons to an already over-populated Colony. On this account alone the Committee urges upon Government the desirability of exploring every avenue whereby the influx of surplus population into the Colony may be checked.

Lastly, hawkers are most likely to act as receivers of stolen goods, especially broadcasted/cargoes from ships, for sale in the streets and to serve as a means of disposal for stolen goods which, if exposed for sale in shops, might be liable to seizure and condemnation.

The Committee's general conclusion on the whole survey of the hawking system is that it should have no place in any ideal state of affairs or properly-regulated modern city of metropolitan status like Hong Kong, and that the ultimate object to be aimed at can only be, on any long-term plan, its total abolition in the urban areas, except possibly for a limited number of newspaper vendors and the pedlar class.

ATS UNIFORM HUMILIATING

London, Mar. 26.

Lord Mansfield today recommended to his colleagues that the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) be given new uniforms.

He said that the "present humiliating combination of sackcloth and sandals" must have been designed by a man who was crossed in love when giving and was determined to be revenged on the whole female sex.—United Press.

prescribed for pitches should be on a sliding scale and those more remote from the centre of the town should cost less than those nearer the centre, and in the more populous districts or in the vicinity of regular public markets.

To facilitate control of hawking in the hawkers' market areas, hawkers, in addition to carrying their ordinary licences, should be required to display on their clothing a plaque bearing their photograph and the name of the street where they are licensed to hawk.

In the allotment of sites in these hawkers' markets, preference should be given to persons of licence and to persons who by possession of a rice-ration card or otherwise can establish considerable length of Hong Kong residence, and to the aged, defective, or destitute—provided always that an applicant is a fit and responsible person.

Private Markets
The Committee considers that between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. it is essential that all hawkers' markets should be closed to allow the Sanitary Department to proceed with its work of cleansing without interference.

The Committee recommends for consideration that, if an insufficient number of Government hawkers' markets can be established to accommodate all those who may justifiably have a claim to continue hawking here, the time being the establishment of privately owned hawkers' markets should be facilitated as an interim measure.

By this scheme a landowner might receive assistance to clear his land of debris and would thus be permitted to pave it and let out spaces thereon to licensed hawkers at a rental prescribed by the Urban Council. The landowner in such cases would be responsible for the observance of sanitary regulations on the premises.

A scheme of this nature has been successfully tried in Singapore and the Municipal Ordinance of the (former) Straits Settlements embodies provisions enabling the establishment of private markets.

The Urban Council is proposing to Government the erection of concrete stalls of approved hygienic pattern at Government expense to serve as cooked food stalls in certain places and to be let out to suitable licensees.

The Committee recommends that, if the cost would not be excessive, in some of the open spaces to be devoted to hawkers' markets in the scheme already outlined, the Committee recommends that Government give favourable consideration to these proposals, and it appears likely that the rents receivable on such stalls would represent a fair return on the outlay.

Pedlar's Licence
If the proposals made are accepted, itinerant hawkers will no longer be allowed to carry on their trade from place to place but will be confined to the spaces allotted to them. They will then be itinerant only in the sense that they must be able to collect all their goods and receptacles, carry them off on a pole on the termination of the day's business, and bring them back on the following day.

The description of them as itinerant hawkers will therefore no longer be appropriate and the Committee suggests that in future they simply be known as "hawkers (fixed pitch)".

There are, however, certain goods which householders may find it useful to have sold at their doors, and the Committee recommends that a new class of licence called a "Pedlar's Licence" be instituted. Pedlars would be allowed to sell from door-to-door in certain areas specified on their licences.

The kinds of goods which pedlars might be permitted to sell are: brooms, feather dusters, small hardware, small haberdashery, curios, baskets, rope and string, bamboo ware and brown paper.

Newspaper hawkers, it is considered, should come under the same regulations as hawkers generally and should be confined to definite pitches. They, constituting, however, the only exception to the Committee's proposal to require hawkers to hawk in the centre of the city and other special places.

All hawkers except tobacco hawkers are controlled by the Urban Council and the Police. The total number of hawkers at present licensed by the Council is 10,554, and by the Police 1,100. The total number of hawkers at present licensed by the Council is 10,554, and by the Police 1,100.

The Committee's general conclusion on the whole survey of the hawking system is that it should have no place in any ideal state of affairs or properly-regulated modern city of metropolitan status like Hong Kong, and that the ultimate object to be aimed at can only be, on any long-term plan, its total abolition in the urban areas, except possibly for a limited number of newspaper vendors and the pedlar class.

Greater Evils
Even if complete suppression were practicable, it might in present circumstances bring even greater evils in its train: not all the hawkers driven off the street might return to their homes in China; many might simply become beggars and a charge on the Government relief department or resort to a life of crime.

The Committee recommends that to cope with the present emergency situation simple markets for stationary hawkers be established in open spaces, where such are now available, and in certain prescribed side-streets.

It might be possible to resume certain bombed-out sites and level and pave them to serve as temporary hawkers' markets pending the provision of more adequate permanent market accommodation.

It is estimated that the streets and spaces set out in lists prepared by the Police and Urban Council could accommodate about 12,700 hawkers as a maximum. But in order that such streets and open spaces may not be too closely packed this number might have to be reduced by about 2,000.

In addition it should be possible to issue about 3,500 of the new form of licence (the Pedlar's Licence); about 600 licences to newspaper sellers; about 250 native cart hawkers' licences; and about 300 steamship hawkers' licences, making a grand total of the order of 16,000. This number would be increased by the extent to which it might be possible to make other open spaces available.

The Committee recommends further that these streets and open spaces be marked off by small allotments of equal sizes for allocation to licensed hawkers. No hawkers should be allowed to carry on his trade in any other place than the area allotted to him, the description of which should be stamped on his licence.

licensed hawkers and failed to renew their licences.

On the Police, already at a great disadvantage through lack of adequate trained and experienced staff, is thrown the immense burden of coping with unlicensed hawkers to a number which would not be over-estimated at 50,000.

As the Police have their hands more than full with their activities against major criminals, they are inadequately equipped at present to establish a continuous, efficient control over hawkers, and have thus had no alternative but to resort to the expedient of making spasmodic raids in order to make conditions difficult for and check the spread still further of unlicensed hawkers.

The Committee says this method of spasmodic raids (though effective, as far as it goes in present circumstances, and successful in keeping down the spread of unlicensed hawkers) does not appear as any complete and permanent solution, since such raids may tend to lead the hawkers to believe that at times they will be tolerated and at times not tolerated.

The Committee hopes that when the Police Force is fully trained and up to strength and when adequate facilities are provided for hawkers in limited numbers, it will be possible to establish a continuous 24-hour or at least more regular patrols than at present to ensure that no hawking offences take place.

Finally, the Committee recommends that the Police Department and Urban Council should give the greatest possible publicity to any of the measures which they advocate and which it is decided to adopt, before putting them into effect, and that the reasons for any course of action decided upon should be fully explained to the public, especially those who will be immediately affected.

Society Wedding
A small party of Royal Marines drew the bridal car at Hong Kong's society wedding of the season in St. John's Cathedral on Wednesday, when Miss Heather Dare Gillespie, daughter of the Hon. Mr. R. D. and Mrs. Gillespie, became the bride of Captain Anthony Warwick Cory Pearn, Royal Marines.

Bridesmaids were Miss Nora Young, daughter of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Young, and Miss Rachel Vaden, Captain B. I. S. Gourlay, MC, Royal Marines, acted as best man and the bride was given away in marriage by her father.

The wedding reception was held in the Hong Kong Club Annexe, where the toast of the happy couple was proposed by the Hon. Mr. A. Morse, CBE, manager of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank. Over 450 guests were present.

Sent Messages To Banks
Hung Wan-man was sentenced to three months' hard labour without the option of a fine by Mr. Sainsbury at Central yesterday for operating a radio communication set without permission.

Before passing sentence Mr. Sainsbury said that during the past 12 months there had been 19 cases and it was clear to him that fines were no deterrent in these cases. Defendant pleaded guilty through Mr. F. Zimmerman, Mr. Wynne-Jones, Postmaster General, prosecuted, and said that when defendant was arrested at No. 81 Benham Road, besides the apparatus, coded messages and six telephones with extensions were found. When questioned, defendant admitted being in charge and added that all messages received were sent to banks.

Money Mart
The money market passed another featureless day yesterday with rates moving within narrow margins.

Gold opened at \$270.75 a tael, fell to \$269.50, rose to \$273, and closed at \$272.25.

Plaster opened at \$10.85, went up to \$11.22 and closed at \$11.12.

Chinese National Currency was stationary at 38% cents for futures and 43% cents for spot (for CN\$1,000).

U.S. dollars had buyers at \$4.80. Sterling was steady at \$14.50. and Australian pounds were quiet at \$12.53.

BANK MEETING
Shareholders of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation are reminded that the Bank's Annual meeting takes place at 11.30 a.m. today at the head office of the Corporation, No. 1, Queen's Road Central.

The forthcoming wedding of (Miss) Barbara Cunningham, daughter of Mr. Cunningham, to (Mr.) William Cunningham, son of Mr. Cunningham, will take place at 11.30 a.m. today at the head office of the Corporation, No. 1, Queen's Road Central.

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Bufs Man And A Constable

Pte. Raymond Scott, 19, of the Buffs, was fined \$100 by Mr. Sheldon, K.C., at Central yesterday for behaving in a disorderly manner by interfering with Li Shek-yan (PCC-1348) at the Supreme Court Building on the night of March 22.

Inspector Brownrigg, prosecuted Pte. Scott, who appeared for Scott and pleaded not guilty.

According to the prosecution, Li was on patrol duty at the Supreme Court Building at 8.50 p.m. on March 22 when he was approached by two soldiers, including defendant, who spoke to him in English, which the constable did not understand.

The constable walked away, but Scott followed him and snatched his cap from the head and threw it to the other soldier.

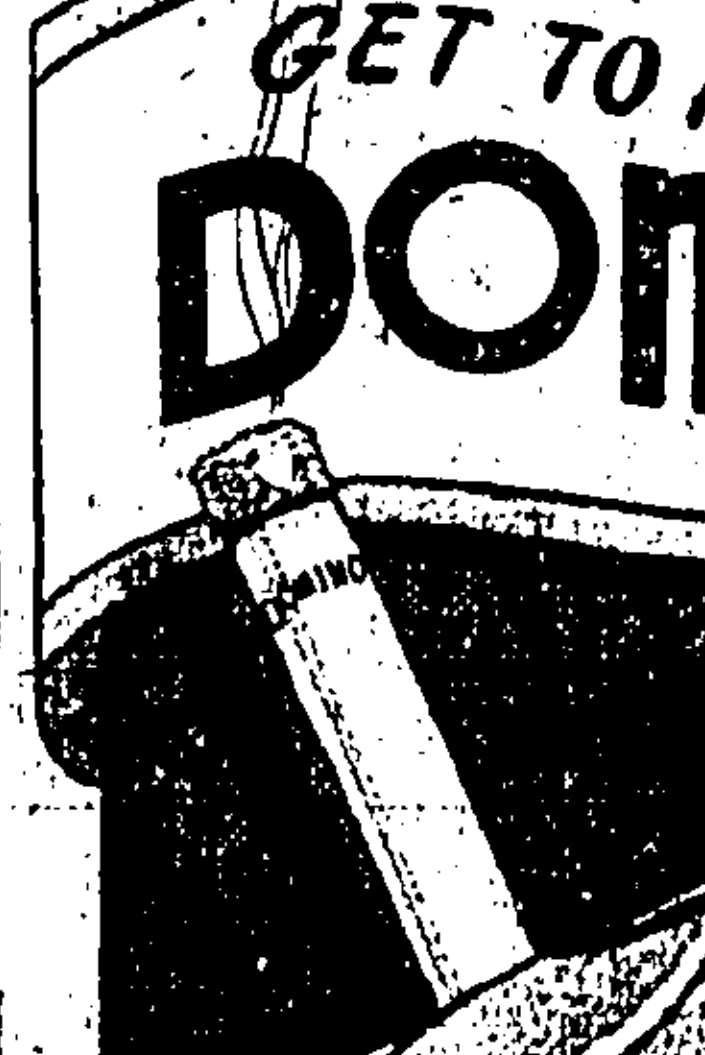
Eventually the constable managed to get his cap back, but Scott, struck him on his right shoulder. The constable kicked back at him. The constable ran away and was pursued by Scott. A naval shore patrol came up, in a car and took Scott and the constable to Wellington Barracks.

Scott said in evidence that he only wanted to joke with the constable and denied having struck or knocked him down.

Mr. Sheldon remarked that he did not quite see any joke in interfering with a policeman, who had a lot of other things to do.

Pte. J. Cunningham, of the Buffs, was ordered by Mr. Sheldon, K.C., at Central yesterday to pay \$50 compensation to Wong Li-lee for assaulting her on the H.K.C.C. ground at 1 a.m. on March 22. Cunningham was acquitted of a charge of attempting to steal her gold bangle.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S COMMENT ON LACK OF INFORMATION

(Continued from page 3)
that Government had the matter very much in mind. All I can say now is that I see no signs of progress, and I do hope Government are really awake to the urgency of the matter.

Claims.
Claims—I should like to take this opportunity to remind Government that there are many people here who still have outstanding claims against Government for goods, motor-cars, etc., requisitioned on the outbreak of war in December, 1941. I hope Government will expedite settlement of these claims; they are, of course, quite distinct from repatriation claims against Japan.

Trade Mark Bureau.
Trade Mark Bureau—I have been pressing for the re-opening of the Trade Mark Bureau for the last eighteen months, so far without success. I hope that it will not be long before this important Bureau is re-established.

Mental Home.
There are three other points I wish to mention:
Mental Home.—Honourable Members will no doubt have seen the letters which have been in the press recently about the Mental Home, and I wish to bring this matter officially before Government.

The inmates of the Home are housed in a building which is completely out of date, in a gloomy locality near the old Government Civil Hospital site. There are no facilities for fresh air or exercise.

All types of the mentally defective are herded together, including border-line cases, maniacs and congenital idiots. Paying patients have slightly better accommodation but even there the accommodation will not permit any privacy.

No occupation is provided apparently no curative measures are taken. There is no library.

The only defence that has ever been made for this state of affairs is that the occupancy is presumed to be temporary, and that patients are transferred, Europeans to their own country and Chinese to an institution in Canton. This is not always so; I know that there have been cases of patients having been in the Home for many years.

I hope it will be possible for Government to find the money out of the proposed new loan to build an up to date Mental Home, preferably somewhere in the Territories, where these unfortunate people can be properly cared for. As it is now, the Home is a disgrace to Hong Kong.

General Post Office.
Another matter to which I wish to draw attention is the quite inadequate Post Office facilities. During the busy hours one has almost to fight one's way to the Stamp Counter in the General Post Office. I would ask Government to explore the possibility of opening a Branch Post Office in the Central District and thus reduce congestion at the General Post Office. It has to be remembered that hundreds of firms have extensive business with the Post Office, and all these transactions at present go through one building. One realises that a site for a branch Post Office in the Central District will be hard to find and, if the difficulty proves insurmountable, I suggest that the present General Post Office be redesigned and occupy two floors instead of one.

Vaccination.
Finally, I wish to mention the unsatisfactory arrangements at the Government Inoculation and Vaccination Bureau in the Fire Brigade Building. For some reason, about which I am not clear, the Authorities refuse to recognise vaccination and inoculation certificates issued by private practitioners, and anyone wishing to travel in order to obtain the required health certificates must obtain them from the Government Bureau. The result is that there is sometimes a queue of couples waiting for vaccination stretching right round the building. To stand in this queue is not only very unpleasant, but a waste of valuable time.

I hope the Honourable Director of Medical Services will take steps to improve this service without delay.

DR. S. N. CHAU
Extraordinary Nicety

The Hon. Dr. S. N. Chau said:—While I associated myself with most of what has already been said by the Senior Unofficial Members, I feel that there are some points to which special attention should be directed. The first year after the liberation of the Colony naturally produced exceptional problems and formidable factors and uncertainties. To add to the difficulties, the efforts of the Military Administration overlapped the work of the Civil Authorities. In the circumstances the Honourable Financial Secretary is to be

congratulated on producing a satisfactory result for the past year and submitting a Budget which on the face of it balances with an extraordinary nicety. It is practically impossible, however, to make intelligent comments on the totals of the estimates of the revenue and expenditure as presented. They are not accompanied by sufficient information to show or explain the variations between the capital receipts and expenditure in 1946-47 and the estimates for 1947-48. In the absence of a proper balance sheet for the past financial year and estimates of capital expenditure for the coming year it is impossible to obtain a proper appreciation of the financial position. It is hoped that in future years it may be possible to submit a more complete financial statement and a balance sheet for the coming year. The expenditure proposed for the coming year.

New Taxes.
As to the revenue the totals of each section are given in the statement, but a total of the entire revenue is not provided; nor is there a total given of the entire expenditure. From the figures given, the most striking feature is the internal revenue from an estimated 7 million in 1946-47 to close on 30 million in 1947-48. An explanation for this increase is given as "new taxes and increased prices."

An amount of 10 million is estimated to be required from the new taxes and increased prices. It appears to me that the full possibilities of other internal revenue sources have not been explored, and I do not feel that so radical a change as the introduction of a fully-fledged income tax is justified in the Colony, so far as the revenue required for the coming year is concerned. It must also be remembered that the pre-war Revenue Ordinance was passed under the exigencies of war, and it was understood that the imposition was to be only a temporary measure, to be removed as soon as the war came to an end. Now the war has been prosecuted to a successful end, and the public had hoped for comparative peace and an opportunity for rehabilitation of the Colony after nearly 4 years of devastating war, but there is a limit to everything, and the public's capacity to carry heavy loads is reaching its limit. I earnestly hope that Government will devise some other means of raising revenue than by direct taxation in the form of the proposed Income Tax to which such strong objections have been raised by all sections of the community.

After four years of neglect and disruption under the occupation of the enemy, every commercial concern here, large or small, requires all their resources to re-equip and rehabilitate, and the Government imposes which would prevent or retard these most urgent improvements would be detrimental to the interests of the Colony.

Detrimental.
Regarding 'Assessed Taxes,' it seems to me that property owners have not received fair treatment from Government. Unlike other investors, they are prevented by stringent regulations from receiving more than a certain percentage of return on their investment, and while everything has appreciated in value, the landlords must not receive more than what they did before the war. It seems to me therefore that the time has come for an annulment or a radical amendment of all legislation which has the effect of penalising only landlords by adding them with a whole. While it is my desire to safeguard and protect the interests of the tenants, I consider it no less my duty to see that fair treatment is accorded the landlords under the sub-head 'Internal Revenue,' an increase of \$1,000,000 is estimated to derive from Stamp Duty by the introduction of a new tax on the value of property. It is suggested that although this new tax and stamp duties generally has been satisfactory so far, it is unlikely that so many properties will change hands during the coming year, and the estimate has therefore been framed on conservative lines. I would like to take this opportunity of stressing the importance of the early removal of the moratorium which is a hindrance to the early rehabilitation of the Colony and to its economic revival and progress. For instance, there is a restriction on free dealing in stocks and shares or the registration of transfers without the proposed transaction having first been sanctioned by the Registrar of Companies.

Railway Accounts.
A section of the accounts which is difficult to follow is that relating to the Kowloon Canton Railway. On the revenue side the estimates have increased from HK\$4,023,000 in 1946-47 to HK\$5,359,000 for 1947-48. The only figures that are given in the estimates for 1947-48 are an estimate of HK\$500,000 as an estimate for the coming year. In respect of Personal Emoluments

and a few minor charges, it is impossible to form any appreciation of the financial side of the work of this railway so far as the Colony is concerned. Nothing is said as to how the estimated revenue is to be applied except as to the Personal Emoluments or to how much capital expenditure is to be provided for the coming year. It is suggested that accounts should be submitted in such a way as to show clearly the current expenditure as distinct from the capital expenditure and give a balance sheet showing the result of the working of the railway as distinct from other activities of the Government.

The difficulties in presenting accounts on this occasion is of course realised, but at the same time it cannot be expected that the unofficial members at short notice should perform the task of the whole finances of the Colony and to approve of the Budget without a full production of the accounts in a way which is expected of any modern governmental body.

Education.
I now turn to Expenditure which I find requires little comment. However, I note with pleasure that attention has been given to the need of expansion of Vernacular Education about which I spoke at some length in my speech on the budget for the past year. Any expenditure on this head will be money well spent.

While touching on the subject of education, I regret to note that there is still a shortage of schools, and I think this deficiency should be remedied as early as possible.

A happy innovation has been introduced in the Education Department. I refer to the distribution of milk and biscuits to school children in Government schools. The money so expended will conduce to better health of the children and their greater efficiency. I do not hesitate to repeat what I said in this Council last year on the estimates for the year 1946-47 on the lack of amenities for the public. I particularly regret that there is still a shortage of hospital accommodation, and while appreciating the fact that the Medical Department, I feel that since this matter affects the general public an effort should be made to supply this deficiency. The Honourable Director of Medical Services has rendered very important service to the Colony and it behooves this Council to give him the necessary support in his efforts to improve existing conditions.

District Watch.
I am glad that the system of collecting funds from the public for the maintenance of the District Watch Force has been abolished and that the Force is now maintained by the Government. This is a step in the right direction, but it is to be hoped that the proposed reduction of the Force will be gradual and in consonance with its functions as investigators for the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs. The Force is now performing useful service in the past, and should be retained for as long as its usefulness remains undiminished.

The Hon. Financial Secretary in his speech on the first reading of the Bill now before us said: "Many important reasons for the military period and the incidence of the cost of demobilisation expenses and pensions in respect of the Volunteers are among the most important, but there are many others." He further said: "Many important reasons for the military period and the incidence of the cost of demobilisation expenses and pensions in respect of the Volunteers are among the most important, but there are many others."

I understand that this Colony will be called upon to pay for the demobilisation and pensions of Volunteers and for repatriation. I consider it unfair to saddle this Colony with these items of expenditure.

Let me first deal with the demobilisation and pensions of Volunteers. It is true that by an oversight, the Volunteers have not been incorporated into the fighting forces. But the fact remains that they did fight in the defence of the Colony with conspicuous gallantry, and has made as great a sacrifice for King and Empire as members of the regular forces. Why then should not the Imperial Government assume the responsibilities for the expenses of their demobilisation and their pensions?

I particularly dislike to have to pay for the repatriation of wounded and children sent out of the Colony shortly before the outbreak of the Pacific War. It was a subject that provoked much adverse criticism at the time, and today many feel that it is most inequitable to expect the majority to pay for a favoured while 95 per cent of the population received no protection whatsoever.

With these few remarks I beg to support the adoption of the Bill.

MR. M. M. WATSON
Great Discrepancy
The Hon. Mr. M. M. Watson said:—I have listened with great interest to the speech of the Honourable Financial Secretary in introducing this Bill to the Council and I may say so it reflected the great amount of work that has been put into the preparation of these estimates.

That first thing which strikes me in the estimates for last year is the very great discrepancy between the estimated revenue and the revenue that has in fact been collected.

The difficulty of estimating the revenue last year was and is an obvious one, and the discrepancy I have referred to was also accentuated by the expenditure not being as heavy as anticipated, but this only accounts for a part of the difference.

The real reason for the great difference between the expectations and the realities of last year is in my opinion due to the fact that so far as I am aware no British Colony, other than those in the Far East, has been put in a similar position in the history of the Empire. It is possible that during the Napoleonic Wars some British Colonies were occupied by the enemy for a longer or shorter time but, during the recent occupation of this Colony when we were unable to recollect any comparable case.

Abnormal.
For this reason I feel that for the year that is leaving us should be regarded as abnormal and treated accordingly. I do not mean by this to suggest that the Honourable Member has produced his estimates upon the false assumption that he will find, and probably be very embarrassed to find, his revenue twice as much as he expected. On the contrary I feel that he has taken an extremely conservative view of his ability to find the money which he will, as at present he sees the figure, require to balance the budget. I am authoritatively informed, for example, that at the present rate of collection the betting tax will produce at least twice the amount mentioned in the estimate.

My point, Sir, in making this observation is that there is still possible a great divergence of opinion regarding the financial course of the foregoing year and I am therefore pleased to see that the Honourable Member has taken the conservative view to which I have referred.

The item in the Estimates which has attracted the most public attention is undoubtedly the \$16,088,000 expected from the Internal Revenue Bill or what is perhaps better known as the income tax law. I suppose it might be said that this item dominates the whole picture.

I have no doubt, however, that ample opportunity will be given to this Council to discuss this measure and I therefore pass to other matters in connection with the Bill before Council.

I think, Sir, that I have already indicated that I have no fundamental differences with the Honourable Member on this Bill, but there are a number of criticisms of the Estimates I should like to make concerning particular items.

As an unofficial member of the Council, following the precedents prior to the war, I feel that the unofficial members were expected to stop the Government from spending money, I, open to correction, feel at the present time that the Government is, if anything, skimping some essential services that should be rendered to the public. I must, however, qualify my remark by stating that any provision which will induce more persons to flock to this Colony is to be deprecated as the Colony is palpably too full now and more arrivals must in the end lower the standard of living.

Legal Department.
One of the cases with which I feel I can deal is the position in the Legal Department. It is, of course, a matter for the head of that department whether he is or is not understaffed. I can only speak from the experience of the practising lawyer on the results of various matters that come before me and it is requested that something should be done about them. These cases include matters of the greatest importance to the commercial community. They include, Sir, the establishment of the Trade Marks Office, a side-line is the Patent Office, the return of Companies to Hong Kong which became registered in England during the war, and a number of other legal requirements which are well known to the legal department. On these particular matters, Sir, I am glad to speak from experience and I therefore hope that I shall be forgiven, and I hope listened to, in bringing these points to the attention of the Government.

In connection with the staffing of departments, I observe that provision has been made for a full staffed Internal Revenue Department to deal with the proposed new taxation. It that Department is expected to be fully prepared to function when it becomes necessary as I feel it would be a great mistake to put into operation such a complicated measure as the one proposed without an efficient staff to work it; if that were done the Department would none spend all its time endeavouring to catch up and correcting its mistakes, to the great delight of the evaders.

The question of evasion of tax draws one's attention to the fact that only \$3,000,000 is expected from the means tax, a sum which seems to be generally agreed as showing a very great evasion of the tax. I observe, however, that steps are now being taken to make evasion more difficult, but it is noteworthy that even the smallness of this tax has not proved enough to make a reasonable collection possible without extraordinary means.

Caustic Comments.
A point in the Estimates upon which I have heard some caustic comments is the item of \$30,317,828 for miscellaneous services; as this item is very nearly a third of the budget, this is not surprising.

We have of course details in the papers which have been circulated but the matter might be less baldly put in the summary of the estimates which is published in the Gazette and subsequently in the Press.

I welcome the appointment of the Salaries Commission as the inadequacy of salaries, particularly among the lower paid Government Servants, has been universally recognised for some time. I see that it has been suggested in the Press that the lower paid ranks may suffer from not being represented on the Commission but I feel sure their cause will be much better brought out by the experienced gentlemen on the Commission than would probably be the case by one of their own number. It is a recognised practice amongst lawyers to hand cases in which they are personally interested to another lawyer and they, experienced in the effects of advocacy, do not do this because they prefer to have their case put less efficiently than they could do it themselves.

There is only one suggestion I should like to make regarding the composition of the Commission, and that is that, although I observe the Commission have technical accountants assistance, I think that the help of an outside chartered accountant with large experience in the Colony would be invaluable.

Necessary Expenditure.
I have, in company with the other unofficial members of the Council, been through the estimates in detail and bringing the best consideration of them that I am able to find very little to disagree with, as the estimates have, either intentionally or otherwise, quite rightly at the moment been confined to obvious necessary expenditure. It is unfortunate that the budget is not able to deal with all our expected commitments as we are aware that there are many so far unformulated demands, but this is the inevitable consequence of the times we have been through. Such demands when formulated will no doubt be placed before this Council for discussion.

There are two matters of great general importance which affect the community and also the revenue to which I should like to refer.

The first is the question of the Moratorium.

I believe that Government have on several occasions been addressed or questioned on this point by Honourable Members but, so far as outward appearances at least go, nothing has happened.

The Moratorium is, in my opinion, greatly impeding the commercial activities of the Colony.

In many cases and in diverse matters only a temporary arrangement can be made to deal with a particular position as the possibility of the effect of legislation being the Moratorium. Large sums of money are being held in suspense on this account and it often happens that if any party insists on assuming that there will be no conditions to such raising of the Moratorium, matters come to a standstill.

This is after a year or so during which the Moratorium has been in existence and in my judgment for some months now the position has not changed and will not change in the future, except that the longer one is prevented from exercising their rights it is generally in practice more difficult to do so.

A further point is that there is also a considerable loss of revenue I believe owing to transactions being occasionally put through the back door in many cases, to evade the law.

Under-Staffing Of Legal Department.
The Hon. Attorney General said:—Honourable members have referred to the position of under-staffing which is prevalent in the Legal Departments. They have referred to it in a note of sympathy. This situation is having the urgent attention of Government and in particular Government's intention is focused on the question of re-establishment of the Registry of Trade Marks with all possible speed.

"One of the reasons which have been anticipated by members for delay in this re-establishment of the Registry of Trade Marks has been the question of staff. The problem does not rest at that. It may not be generally known that upon the liberation of the Colony, among other disasters facing the Government was the disaster which was presented by the fact that the entire register had disappeared."

"Not only re-opening the office and appointment of officers is the problem, therefore, but also the question of introducing and passing legislation which will govern the question and difficulties of reconstruction of the pre-war register. This task was studied by a committee which was set up under the authority of Year Excellency under the chairmanship of the Acting Attorney General. They have now made a report which will be before Government shortly."

Tenancy Legislation.
"One other topic which has been referred to is that of the Landlords and Tenants Proclamation. Mr. Lee d'Almeida has in his impressive speech struck a note of warning on the absence of legislation on landlords and tenants. It is understandable that he should be concerned and interested because he himself is chairman of the committee which had to perform the very big task of considering this problem of tenancy and the relations between landlords and tenants."

"I am happy to reassure him that relief is in sight for landlords. Among other acts a Bill to deal with the subject in substitution of existing legislation is before Government and will be before this Council for consideration very soon."

MR. FOLLOWES
Have Started Again From Nothing
The Hon. the Financial Secretary said: Some Honourable members have expressed the hope that a more complete financial statement will be made available to them in future years. They have complained that they have been handicapped in the consideration of the Estimates by the lack of a comparative table showing actual revenue and expenditure during the past year as compared with the estimated figures for the coming year. I fully appreciate the inconvenience that this causes but I do hope that they will be indulgent for a little longer. It must not be forgotten that we have started again from nothing and that a proper system must be built up gradually as the situation with

which we are faced are very real.

It is usual to include in Colonial Estimates a comparative table showing actual revenue or expenditure under the various heads for the last year but one together with the estimated figures for the year just finishing and for the year to come. It is unfortunately not possible to restore this feature of the estimates just yet because we have no last year but one for, of course, the Colony was still under Japanese occupation for part of the year 1945/46. There is also the point that any detailed expenditure figures for 1946/47 would be more in the nature of guesswork than reasonably accurate estimates for as I explained when introducing the first reading of the Appropriation Bill a great deal of expenditure is taking place in London and detailed accounts are months in arrears. Claims are often presented for which this Government has no prior knowledge. As an example, since these estimates were introduced a claim for a considerable sum has been presented in respect of the cost of maintenance of internees who were sent by this Government to India in 1940. We are constantly receiving surprises of this sort and I should therefore prefer to defer the publication of a comparative table until next year when we will at least know our actual figures for 1946/47 and as a result of the more normal conditions which we hope will by then be prevailing we should be able to furnish with some accuracy detailed figures of estimated expenditure for 1947/48.

Assets And Liabilities.
Similarly it will be possible next year to publish in the estimates a statement of assets and liabilities as at March 31, 1947. Civil Government has not been re-established for a sufficient period to make it possible for such a statement to be included this year.

The Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo suggested that revenue from land sales should instead of being credited to general revenue be utilised to build up a reserve fund. This is a suggestion which has been put forward not only in Hong Kong but in many other Colonies and the proposal has its attractions. But the main argument against such a procedure is, I think, that the first charge on all forms of revenue collected during the year must necessarily be for the purpose of meeting expenditure. It is not really practicable to earmark revenue from one particular source to meet one particular type of expenditure or to build up a reserve because that would probably tend to dry up just as the need for it became greatest. It seems to me that the whole of the revenue must for the next few years at any rate be made available to meet the general requirements of the Colony and to secure a balance of the budget. Indeed if any revenue is earmarked for a special purpose it will be necessary to replace it by means of increased taxation. I entirely agree, of course, as to the desirability of building up a reserve fund but I am rather afraid that this is still a few years ahead. The soundest way of building up such a fund will be to transfer to it a substantial portion of the surplus in a good year.

K.C.R. Confusion.
The Honourable Member also referred to the confusion which marks the arrival at Kowloon Station of the Canton train and the insuperable difficulties with which the staff charged with the examination of inoculation certificates are faced. I understood him to say that he considered that we should take a realistic view and instead of trying to deal with the constant flow of persons arriving in the Colony rely on mass vaccination or inoculation of the population when an epidemic threatens. I am not qualified to express any view on this suggestion but I have no doubt that the Director of Medical Services will give it careful examination.

Several points on education have been raised. One Honourable Member expressed concern that nothing has been done in regard to the rebuilding of Queen's College and King's College. The position is that Government inclines to the view that it would be undesirable to reconstruct these schools on the old sites and the question of alternative sites is being examined.

Education.
As the universities provision is being made for the continuance of secondary education at the old Japanese school in Kennedy Road

which is able to cater for all Government students who are likely to require secondary education this year. The Government aided schools are taking more secondary pupils than before the war. Their secondary pupils now total 4,382 and those of the Government secondary schools 1,188 as compared with an all-in total of 7,400 before the war. The number therefore receiving secondary education at the present time is within 1850 of the pre-war figure in spite of all the difficulties with which we continue to be faced.

Both the secondary and primary portions of Bellios School have been re-opened in the Elly Kadoorie School in Hospital Road and an application has been received from the manager of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Schools of Cooked Children for permission to rebuild the back portion of the Bellios School, the front portion being a complete ruin. Government has agreed to this proposal for a period of five years and no new will be charged provided that the building continues to be used as a school. At the end of five years the arrangement will be reviewed.

The rebuilding of the Vernacular Middle School at Pokfulam has been considered but it is possible that this will not be possible during the present year.

Doing Their Best.
The Hon. Mr. Gillespie asks whether steps can be taken to improve the service of the Inoculation and Vaccination Bureau. I am sure that my Honourable friend, the Director of Medical Services, will also give consideration to this point as well as the suggestion which has been made in regard to the Mental Home but as the Honourable Member himself admitted the staffs both of the Mental Hospital and the Inoculation Bureau are doing their best under almost impossible conditions.

The Honourable member also referred to the congestion at the Post Office and suggested the establishment of a Branch Post Office. These suggestions will be brought to the notice of the Post Office and the suggestion which has been made in regard to the Mental Home but as the Honourable Member himself admitted the staffs both of the Mental Hospital and the Inoculation Bureau are doing their best under almost impossible conditions.

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which we are faced are very real.

It is usual to include in Colonial Estimates a comparative table showing actual revenue or expenditure under the various heads for the last year but one together with the estimated figures for the year just finishing and for the year to come. It is unfortunately not possible to restore this feature of the estimates just yet because we have no last year but one for, of course, the Colony was still under Japanese occupation for part of the year 1945/46. There is also the point that any detailed expenditure figures for 1946/47 would be more in the nature of guesswork than reasonably accurate estimates for as I explained when introducing the first reading of the Appropriation Bill a great deal of expenditure is taking place in London and detailed accounts are months in arrears. Claims are often presented for which this Government has no prior knowledge. As an example, since these estimates were introduced a claim for a considerable sum has been presented in respect of the cost of maintenance of internees who were sent by this Government to India in 1940. We are constantly receiving surprises of this sort and I should therefore prefer to defer the publication of a comparative table until next year when we will at least know our actual figures for 1946/47 and as a result of the more normal conditions which we hope will by then be prevailing we should be able to furnish with some accuracy detailed figures of estimated expenditure for 1947/48.

Assets And Liabilities.
Similarly it will be possible next year to publish in the estimates a statement of assets and liabilities as at March 31, 1947. Civil Government has not been re-established for a sufficient period to make it possible for such a statement to be included this year.

The Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo suggested that revenue from land sales should instead of being credited to general revenue be utilised to build up a reserve fund. This is a suggestion which has been put forward not only in Hong Kong but in many other Colonies and the proposal has its attractions. But the main argument against such a procedure is, I think, that the first charge on all forms of revenue collected during the year must necessarily be for the purpose of meeting expenditure. It is not really practicable to earmark revenue from one particular source to meet one particular type of expenditure or to build up a reserve because that would probably tend to dry up just as the need for it became greatest. It seems to me that the whole of the revenue must for the next few years at any rate be made available to meet the general requirements of the Colony and to secure a balance of the budget. Indeed if any revenue is earmarked for a special purpose it will be necessary to replace it by means of increased taxation. I entirely agree, of course, as to the desirability of building up a reserve fund but I am rather afraid that this is still a few years ahead. The soundest way of building up such a fund will be to transfer to it a substantial portion of the surplus in a good year.

K.C.R. Confusion.
The Honourable Member also referred to the confusion which marks the arrival at Kowloon Station of the Canton train and the insuperable difficulties with which the staff charged with the examination of inoculation certificates are faced. I understood him to say that he considered that we should take a realistic view and instead of trying to deal with the constant flow of persons arriving in the Colony rely on mass vaccination or inoculation of the population when an epidemic threatens. I am not qualified to express any view on this suggestion but I have no doubt that the Director of Medical Services will give it careful examination.

Several points on education have been raised. One Honourable Member expressed concern that nothing has been done in regard to the rebuilding of Queen's College and King's College. The position is that Government inclines to the view that it would be undesirable to reconstruct these schools on the old sites and the question of alternative sites is being examined.

Education.
As the universities provision is being made for the continuance of secondary education at the old Japanese school in Kennedy Road

which is able to cater for all Government students who are likely to require secondary education this year. The Government aided schools are taking more secondary pupils than before the war. Their secondary pupils now total 4,382 and those of the Government secondary schools 1,188 as compared with an all-in total of 7,400 before the war. The number therefore receiving secondary education at the present time is within 1850 of the pre-war figure in spite of all the difficulties with which we continue to be faced.

Both the secondary and primary portions of Bellios School have been re-opened in the Elly Kadoorie School in Hospital Road and an application has been received from the manager of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Schools of Cooked Children for permission to rebuild the back portion of the Bellios School, the front portion being a complete ruin. Government has agreed to this proposal for a period of five years and no new will be charged provided that the building continues to be used as a school. At the end of five years the arrangement will be reviewed.

The rebuilding of the Vernacular Middle School at Pokfulam has been considered but it is possible that this will not be possible during the present year.

Doing Their Best.
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BUDGET DEBATE

No more than casual reference was made during yesterday's budget debate to the prospects of such constitutional changes as will affect the future structure of the Legislative Council. It had been expected that the Unofficial Members would show themselves conscious of the implications, that the debate would mark the end of an era, by letting themselves go for a change, those expectations were sharply disappointed. The same old variants of the same old things were put forward in the same old way. Indeed, the impression is given perhaps more forcibly than in days past of a debate empty of "full of sound," and emphasis is lent to that impression by the unexpected decision of Government to take the Third Reading today, securing passage of the Bill after the most cursory examination of the detailed Estimates in Select Committee. This rather remarkable procedure, it may be, exposes the source of the inadequacy of this year's proceedings, and it is possible that in some measure the Unofficials deserve sympathy rather than criticism. It will not have escaped notice, in this connection, that Mr. Landale put in his protest against an inability to form a proper judgement on the Budget because of the dearth of information provided by the Government. He urged that before Unofficials are, in future, asked to give their approval of a Budget, they shall be provided with a full financial statement for the past year and estimates distinguishing clearly between ordinary and extraordinary expenditure. But while the point was taken, it was not taken far enough. The main complaint against the Unofficial Members is based upon this curious reluctance to carry their protests to their logical conclusion and insist upon refusal to give their assent to a measure until they are in possession of all the information they require. They express a hope that Government will adopt a certain course of action, when they should demand it. This mildness is the theme which, with but occasional deviations, runs through the entire unofficial side of the debate, and it provides no room for confidence that the true interests of the taxpayer are satisfactorily represented. We are, ourselves, not in a position to discuss the Budget, its merits or demerits. The Unofficial Members of Council have had an advantage inasmuch as while they may have been denied all the information to which they are entitled in a form easily to be understood, they have at least had rough copies of the Estimates in their hands for several days and can form, for themselves, some picture of what is covered by the "Ordinance to apply a sum of \$100,488,433 to the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1948." The public on the other hand, is completely in the dark, the Estimates have not been released to the Press, and no opportunity has been given for any expression of serious public opinion upon the financial programme of Government. The Hon. Financial Secretary attempted to justify the rush and request for rubber stamp approval of an insufficiently explained Budget by arguing that "much inconvenience results if the Budget is not dealt with before the beginning of the financial year to which it relates." The basis of this contention is not easy to discover. It is the English practice to present the departmental estimates, piecemeal, during March, and to submit the Budget, as such, on the Tuesday following the end of the financial year, early in April that is. There seems to be no good reason why this procedure could not be followed in Hong Kong, and it is quite apparent that Mr. Landale's request for a full financial statement for the past year could not be met except by adoption of this method of presentation. That, which has been followed this year, could be suspected of having been designed to enable Government to avoid awkward questions. We believe the haste and inadequacy of information to have been largely accidental, but it is nevertheless most unfortunate and more regrettable.

Embarrassing Paradox: Why U.N. Cannot Act

By DEWITT MACKENZIE

When President Harry Truman made his historic appeal to America to provide Greece and Turkey with aid to resist Communist aggression he explained that "the United Nations and its related organizations are not in a position to extend help of the kind that is required."

He did not state specifically why the United Nations could not function.

It is a small wonder that he did not for the answer is an embarrassing paradox.

The United Nations cannot act because the world is so terribly divided against itself ideologically that there is no peace.

Greece and Turkey represent a bone of contention provided with specific authority and material means.

So far as one can see that is the way the matter must stand so long as the conflict between Communism and democracy continues.

The United Nations Security Council is charged with the responsibility of preserving peace and security in such cases as those of Greece and Turkey.

Of the 11 members of the Council, six are elected for a short term, but the Big Five—America, Britain, Russia, France and China—are permanent and each possess a veto power which can nullify any action by a majority.

What earthly chance would there be for an agreement over such a controversial issue as the Greco-Turkish affair with Russia on one side and the rest of the Big Five on the other?

The answer has been demonstrated innumerable times for the Soviet delegation has been playing handball with the veto. This powerful weapon has been used so persistently by the Russians that much of the

effort of the Council has been nullified.

Does this all mean that the new home planned for the United Nations in New York will become a mausoleum of dead hopes as did the marble palace of the League of Nations? Time alone will answer that.

The old League failed in a large degree because of power politics—manoeuvring by the great nations for strategic positions.

Today we find even greater realignment going on. However, while this is discouraging to the peace, yet the world must not overlook that the war has not been long over.

There was bound to be a vast shifting of zonal influence and sure judgment cannot be formed until this metamorphosis is completed.

When will that be? A showdown over Greece, Turkey and Korea may give some idea.

If world revolution for the establishment of Communism continues in full blast, the United Nations certainly cannot carry out its essential function of preserving peace and security.

Meantime the United Nations is providing a sounding board for the ideas of both Communism and its opponents.

The Red cause daily is sounded in the United Nations sessions along with rebuttal.

There was an echo of that thought on Tuesday in the testimony of William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour before the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

He complained that the American State Department had helped to place the World Federation of Trade Unions in the structure of the United Nations.

He said the World Federation of Trade Unions organization is a Communist dominated tool of the Communist International and added, "There is no warrant for the Government of the United States to provide this ready means for furthering world revolution with its official aid and approval."

But isn't there some word of optimism?

Yes, on Tuesday, the anniversary of the United Nations first meeting in America, Mr. Truman sent a message to its secretary general that, "The United States in all its acts, seeks to add strength to the United Nations, and to give effect to the principles and purposes of the United Nations charter." If all the powers subscribe to and carry out that declaration, the world can have peace.

U.S. Communists A "Fifth Column"

Washington, Mar. 27.

Director J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, described the Communist party of the United States today as a "fifth column" whose "goal is to overthrow our Government."

Testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Mr. Hoover asserted "there is no doubt as to where a real Communist's loyalty rests. Their allegiance is to Russia and not the United States."

He added that the party in this country is "a Fifth Column in this ever was one" and declared it is far better organized than were the Fifth Columns the Nazis had in the countries they attacked.

The committee is considering proposals to outlaw the Communist party.

Mr. Hoover counseled against "any course of action which would give the Communists cause to portray and pity themselves as martyrs," adding "the best antidote to the Communists is vigorous intelligent old-fashioned Americanism."

Earlier, Eugene Dennis, Secretary of the Communist Party, was dismissed abruptly as a witness when he refused repeatedly to give his real name.

"The Colour Of My Hair....."

The Committee members hampered at him time after time to give his real name.

RUSSIA ABSENT FROM COUNCIL MEETING

Lake Success, N.Y. Mar. 26.

No Soviet Russian delegate was present when the United Nations Trustee Council began its first session here today. The Council, however, proceeded with its business.

There had been no Soviet delegate named before the opening of the meeting, and there was no explanation from the Soviet delegation to the United Nations, which is headed by M. Gromyko.

Russia's absence caused some concern but no surprise, as it had been hinted ever since her strong objections to the eight draft trusteeship agreements submitted at the United Nations Conference in London, which she would ignore the Council, which she is entitled to a seat by reason of her position as one of the Big Five.

During the General Assembly Russia voted against the trusteeship agreements as being invalid after she had been defeated on several amendments.

Some delegates believed, however, that a Soviet delegate might be named later.

Professor Francis B. Sayre of the United States told the Council that "the United States delegation feels it will be a great tragedy if the Council act without the participation of a country so great and powerful as the Soviet Union."

"We earnestly hope," he added, "that the Soviet Government will shortly send a representative."

New Members

Memberships of two new United Nations sub-commissions were announced today—the sub-commission on Freedom of Information and Press, comprising Britain, Canada, France, The Netherlands, Panama, the Soviet Union and the United States, and the sub-commission for Prevention of Discrimination against Minorities, comprising Australia, Belgium, Britain, China, Ecuador, France, Haiti, India, Iran, the Soviet Union, Sweden and the United States.

PORTUGUESE EMIGRATION

Lisbon, Mar. 26.

The emigration of Portuguese was suspended by a decree announced today, the main purpose of which is to safeguard the country's manpower.—Reuter.

Catholicism "Recognised"

Rome, Mar. 27.

Italian Communists joined with the Christian Democratic party in the Constituent Assembly in voting approval of an article in the Italian draft Constitution which makes Catholicism the recognised religion of Italy.

Article Seven of the draft Constitution continues the validity of the Lateran treaty signed by Italy under Mussolini with the Vatican.

This article says the Church and the State are each in their own sphere, independent and sovereign, and that their relations will be governed by the Lateran treaty signed in 1929.

Two More P & O Liners Released

Two more P. & O. ships, "Maloja" and "Carthage," have been released from Government service and returned to the shipbuilding yards for reconversion after more than seven busy years' service, first as Armed Merchant Cruisers and subsequently as Transports.

The "Maloja" is now in the hands of Messrs. Green & Siley Welf in London, and the "Carthage" is with Messrs. Alexander Stephen & Son on the Clyde.

The 21,000-ton "Maloja" was built by Harland & Wolff at Belfast, being the second P. & O. ship to bear this name, the first having been mined and sunk in the Straits of Dover in 1916. She has spent most of her career on the Australian run, where she was most popular and where she earned a reputation for steadiness in all weathers.

When war came in 1939 the "Maloja" was commissioned as an Armed Merchant Cruiser, mainly on those trying North Atlantic convoy duties, where she intercepted a much-wanted blockade runner, the "La Corona," to the Australian run will be all the more welcome by reason of her great cargo capacity, including as it does 210,000 cu. ft. of refrigerated space for much needed food-stuffs for Britain. It is not expected she will be ready for P. & O. service until the end of 1947 or early 1948.

The 14,000-ton liner "Carthage" also served for a time as an Armed Merchant Cruiser and was then refitted for troop duties. Built in 1935 by Messrs. Alexander Stephen & Son, of Glasgow, she was delivered specially for the United Kingdom—Far East trade where, together with her sister ship, "Corfu," she was extremely popular.

It is expected that the task of reconverting the "Carthage" as a passenger liner will take until the end of 1947.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Why, Gregory! Where's your manners—can't you whistle for a waiter without usin' your fingers?"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

PRETTY EXPENSIVE FUN

Nobody likes to sit there like a bump on a log while the opponents furnish all the action. There is always a temptation to butt in with some kind of a bid, just for the fun of it, if the other fellows are bidding their way to a high contract. This is especially tempting if one of the bids along the way happens to be a suit in which you hold a long string of cards. Then the most fun is just to double, with the idea that they will slip into something else. But that can be pretty expensive fun.

S. 9 2
H. 10 9
D. J 9 5 4 3
C. 10 8 6 5

S. Q 10 5
H. Q 7 5
D. 4 3 2
C. Q 8 7

S. A K J 7 6
H. A K J 8
D. A K
C. A K

(Dealer: South. North-South vulnerable.)
South West North East
2 S Pass 2 NT Pass
3 H Dbl Pass Pass
Rdbl

West had the fun of doubling that 3-hearts bid, but it was the last fun he got out of the hand. When South redoubled, he could find nothing to do except hope that he would get six tricks in some fashion—a pretty forlorn quest against the big opening bid and redouble.

The club Q was opened to the K. South scored two tops in diamonds, two in spades and the club A, then led the spade 6. West ruffed with his Q and returned the heart 2. South got this with the J, then ruffed the spade 7 with a ruff of the club 8 with the heart 8, laid down the heart A and K, then gave West a ruff of the last spade. With all of his trumps West had taken only two tricks. South therefore made two extras for a bigger score than he had any chance to get otherwise.

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Moscow Talks — But No Decisions

Moscow, Mar. 27.

The Four-Power Foreign Ministers wrangled for nearly five hours today without reaching any major decisions and U.S. Secretary of State Marshall warned that the Council was becoming "so ensnared" that "reasonable progress is unfortunately remote."

Disagreement arose over whether China should join with the other four major Allies in issuing invitations to the smaller nations to attend the peace conference.

Marshall Bevin and Bidault said China should be an "inviting power," but Mr. Molotov was against it.

It appeared, however, that China might participate as one of the "presiding chairman" of the conference but not as an "inviting power."

Both Bevin and Molotov opposed Marshall's suggestion that no German Government should be required to sign the German peace treaty and that the peace be imposed by inserting a compliance clause in the new German constitution.

Not Urgent

Marshall replied that the question was not urgent and that perhaps the proposed German peace conference might like to express itself on the subject.

Marshall made another determined plea for participation in the peace conference of all the nations which declared war on Germany, insisting that the conference be limited to the 16 private—on 19, including AK

San Francisco, Mar. 27.
The end of the war left the United States fighting forces with 1,155,748,000 worth of munitions and stores in California. The War Assets Administration is offering the munitions—getting drug in by the

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The House**Proposals**
For Austria
"Too Harsh"London, Mar. 26.
A telegram containing the protest of an all-party group of British Members of Parliament that the British economic proposals for the future of Austria are "too harsh" has been sent to Mr. Bevin in Moscow. It is contended that the freedom of Austria was one of the agreed objectives between the principal Allies before the end of the war, and was published as one of their aims. The all-party group, including Mrs. Barbara Gould, Mr. Robert Boothby, Lord Faringdon, Air Commodore Harvey and Wing Commander E. A. Shackleton, yesterday put a strong case about the Austrian terms to the Minister of State, Mr. Hector McNeill, who sent a telegram to Mr. Bevin setting out the gist of the criticism.—Reuter.**GIRDLING THE**
EMPIREColombo, Mar. 26.
A Royal Air Force "Lincoln" plane—the second on an Empire girdling navigation mission—arrived here today from Singapore. The mission is headed by Wing Commander Rodney and during its stay in Ceylon will visit various stations on the island to display and explain the uses of the latest navigational instruments and technique. The mission will leave next Friday for a destination which until now is unknown.—Reuter.

The setting up of a Royal Commission to inquire into the control, management and ownership of the British press, with a view to "furthering the free expression of opinion through the Press and the greatest practical accuracy in the presentation of news," was announced in the House of Commons today by the Prime Minister.

A commission of 17 members (including the author, J. B. Priestley) will have as its chairman Sir David Ross, Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, who has served on a number of commissions of inquiry.

Mr. Attlee said: "The King has approved the setting up of a Commission to inquire into the Press, with the following terms of reference:—

"With the object of furthering the free expression of opinion through the press and the greatest practical accuracy in the presentation of news, to inquire into control, management and ownership of newspapers, periodicals and news agencies, including their financial structure and monopolistic tendencies in control and to make recommendation thereon."

Other Members

The other members of the committee are: Lady Violet Bonham Carter, Chairman of the Liberal Party organisation; the Rev. Melbourne Evans Aubrey, Moderator of the Federal Council of the Evangelical Free Churches of England; Sir George Alexander Waters, editor of the "Scotsman" for 20 years until his retirement in 1944; Lord Simon; Sir Robert Charles Ensor, barrister and journalist; Mr. Hubert Hall, barrister; Sir Geoffrey Vickers, solicitor; Alderman Wright Robinson, formerly Lord Mayor of Manchester; Sir Granville Sharp, Recorder of King's; Mr. John Benstead, General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen; Mr. Reginald Holmes Wilson, chartered accountant; Sir George Malcolm Young, Trustee of the National Gallery; Mrs. Barbara Woodton, Reader in Social Studies, London University; Miss Eileen Owen, Deputy Regional Commissioner in Wales during the war; and Neil S. Beaton.

After Mr. Attlee's statement, Mr. Haydon Davies, who sponsored the Labour motion in the House which led to the Government to decide to appoint a commission, asked if all the evidence would be taken in public and afterwards printed in full, "seeing that all newspapers may not in self-defence want to print all the evidence."

VANGUARD A
REAR-GUARD?London, Mar. 26.
The atom bomb has split the end of super-dreadnought battleships. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield, former First Sea Lord, Chief of the Naval Staff and for the first years of the war Minister for the Coordination of Defence, said today:
"In his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Institution of Naval Architects, he declared: 'I believe that HMS Vanguard will be a truly historic ship in that she will be the last super-dreadnought as we have known them.'"
"The ship will always need capital ships but I feel certain that Vanguard's successors will be very different."—Reuter.

The Prime Minister replied that the commission would settle its own procedure.

A Lively Moment

Mr. W. Nally, Labour, then caused some lively moments by asking the Prime Minister if he was quite satisfied that the Royal Commission's terms of reference were sufficient to permit a full investigation into the circumstances under which newspapers of the "Express" group continued to pay bribes to Members of Parliament to supply reports of private and confidential meetings of "this House."

This was greeted with a series of "Oh" and a request to withdraw his remarks.

Mr. Oliver Stanley, Conservative, asked if it was not a breach of privilege for Mr. Nally to suggest that a newspaper was paying bribes to Members of Parliament.

The Speaker said that accusations must not be made against Members of accepting bribes. Mr. Nally's remarks were entirely out of order and he must withdraw them at once.

Mr. Nally asked if he would be in order by inserting the word "alleged," but the Speaker said that withdrawal must be complete. It was a most improper statement.

Mr. Nally eventually withdrew his remarks unreservedly.—Reuter.

Marshall Refutes
Soviet ChargesMoscow, Mar. 26.
The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Marshall, today categorically denied Soviet charges that the United States and Britain had enriched themselves to the tune of \$10,000,000,000 by reparations from Germany.

He presented a formal document to the Council of Foreign Ministers, itemising the reparations the United States has received, and they totalled "less than \$275,000,000."

A week ago today the Soviet Foreign Minister accused the British and Americans of oppressing the Soviet claim for \$10,000,000,000.

He listed German external assets, merchant fleet, capital equipment removals from the western zone, German gold and patents.

Marshall's paper today listed the following reparations the United States already received from Germany:—

List Of Reparations
(1) Industrial capital equipment, through the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency, \$50,000,000, directly, "less than \$10,000,000."
(2) Former German ships, \$50,000,000.
(3) German external assets, between \$100,000,000 and \$200,000,000.
(4) Current production and German gold, \$100,000,000.
(5) German industrial equipment, \$100,000,000.**World's**
Largest
Bomber In
Trouble

Fort Worth, Tex.

Mar. 27.

The U.S. Army Air Force's B36—the world's largest land-based bomber—ran into trouble with its landing gear on a test flight and 12 of the 14 men aboard bailed out in preparation for a belly landing.

The USAAF, in describing the huge bomber last November, said it "could carry an atomic bomb to any inhabited region in the world and return home without refueling in event of an enemy attack."

The plane is designed for the normal range of 10,000 miles with 10,000 lb. of bomb without extra fuel tanks.

Remaining on the big ship to land it were the pilot and the co-pilot—both employees of the Consolidated Vultee Corporation, makers of the bomber.

The giant ship took off from Fort Worth Army airfield on a routine test flight.

Four men bailed out after the landing gear trouble was discovered and the rest had to quit the ship 45 minutes later.

The plane came down to a safe emergency landing at Fort Worth Army airfield.

Twelve of the 14 men aboard jumped in parachutes and at least six were injured in landing.—Associated Press.

JUST TOO, TOO
PICTURESQUE

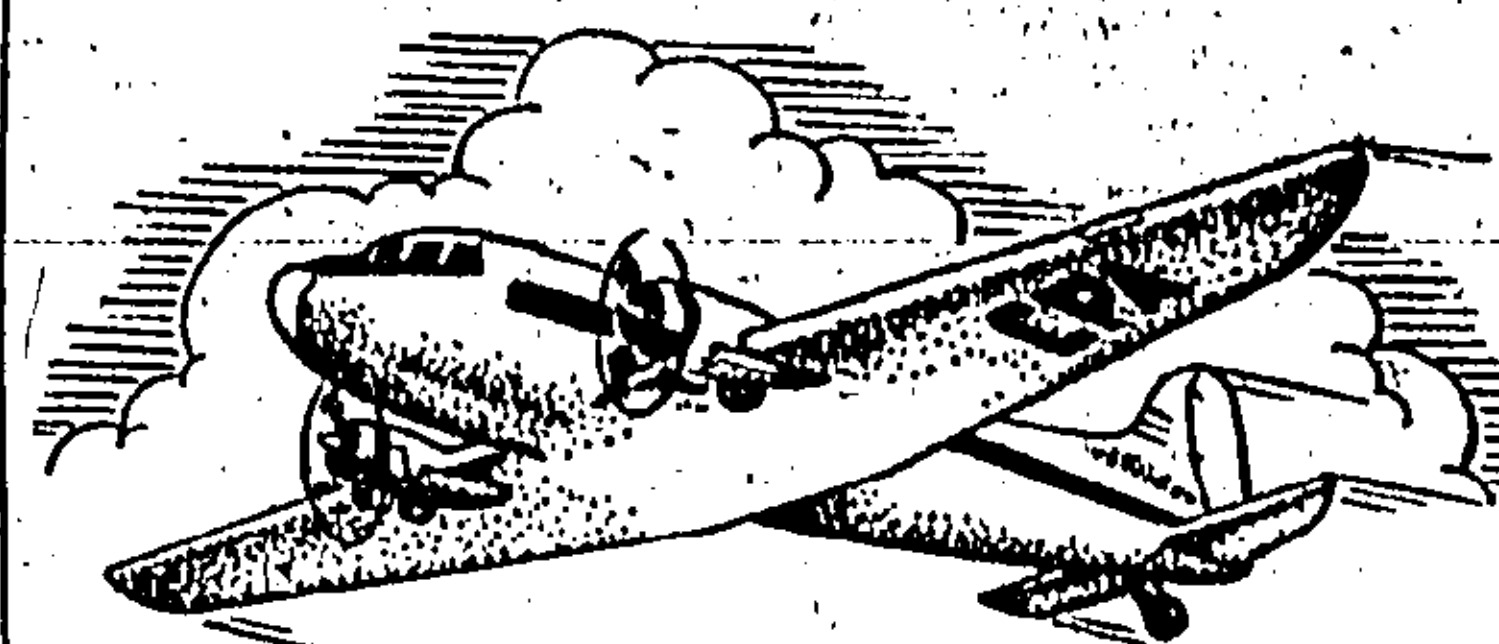
Paris, Mar. 26.

Andre Letroquer, former French Minister of National Defence, today formally declined the invitation of Maitre Maximilian Philonenko to a duel.

M. Philonenko, professor of law at the University of Brussels, considered that M. Letroquer had offended his honour in a recent speech by claiming that he personally was implicated in a little matter of a forgery revolving around one of the Maitre's legal clients.

M. Letroquer received a letter yesterday from M. Philonenko's second, urging him to name his own representatives for an eventual meeting on "the field of honour" where the two protagonists would shoot it out with pistols at 20 feet.

In his reply, the Socialist said, "That would be too picturesque."

Milan, Mar. 26.
Two groups of Italian emigrants destined for work in France and Belgium left here today. The first group comprised 270 mechanics, textile workers and labourers for France and the second 1,000 miners for Belgium.—United Press.

It takes LESS time today to FLY

CPA**MANILA**

Leaving Wednesday, 2nd April Fare \$380

BANGKOKLeaving Saturday, 29th March Fare \$528
Monday, 31st March \$528**SINGAPORE**

Leaving Monday, 31st March Fare \$880

SYDNEY

Leaving Tuesday, 1st April Fare \$2200.

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PEIPING: Every Mon., Wed., & Fri.

KUNMING & CALCUTTA: Every Saturday.

CHUNGKING & KWEILIN: Every Tues. & Sun.

FOOCHOW & AMOY: Every Tues. & Thurs.

HAIKOW: Every Sat.

CANTON: Every Tues., Thurs., Sat. & Sun.

NEW TARIFF:

TO SHANGHAI: HK\$440-	KWEILIN: 200-
PEIPING: 760-	AMOY: 200-
KUNMING: 500-	HAIKOW: 250-
CHUNGKING: 400-	CANTON: 40-
FOOCHOW: 320-	SWATOW: 120-

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"ANHUI" Amoy, Swatow, Saigon & Singapore D.L. 2nd Apr.
"NEWCHWANG" Singapore & Penang D.L. 3rd Apr.
"SHANTUNG" Tsim Keng, Hainan, Pakhoi & Hoihow Noon 4th April.
"HUPEI" Shanghai, Tsingtau & Tientsin 4 p.m. 5th Apr.
"FOYANG" Saigon & Bangkok 4 p.m. 7th Apr.

ARRIVALS FROM

"HANYANG" Shanghai 20th Mar.
"FUKIEN" Amoy, Swatow & Singapore 20th Mar.
"ANHUI" Singapore, Hoihow, Swatow & Amoy p.m. 20th Mar.
"SHANTUNG" Pakhoi, Hoihow & Tsim Keng p.m. 30th Mar.
"HUPEI" Tientsin, Tsingtau & Fochow 31st Mar.
"FOYANG" Shanghai 4th Apr.

CANTON RIVER LINE

"WUSHEI" Arrives 0.45 p.m. 30th March.
Sails 0.45 a.m. 31st April.
Arrives 3.15 p.m. 11th April.
Sails 9.15 a.m. 13th April.

Agents: BLUE FUNNEL LINE**U.K. SERVICE****Arrivals from**

"CALCHAS" United Kingdom via Straits 1st April
"DIOMED" do do 2nd April
"SAMITE" do do 14th April
"ANTIOCHUS" do do Late April

Sailings to

"ATREUS" Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, Liverpool, Glasgow via Port Said 1st April
"DIOMED" do do 15th April

Agents: Australian-Oriental Line, Ltd.**Arrivals from**

"TAIPING" Australia via Kure 8th April
Sailings to
"TAIPING" Sydney 12th April
Accepts Cargo to N. Z. ports on through D/L.

De La Rama Lines**ARRIVALS**

Vessel Date From
m.v. "Bonares" 1st Apr. Los Angeles & San Francisco
m.v. "Donna Nati" 9th Apr. New York via Los Angeles
m.v. "Travancore" 14th Apr. Los Angeles & San Francisco
m.v. "Holland" early May New York & Newport News

DEPARTURES

Vessel Date For
m.v. "Donna Nati" 14th Apr. Atlantic Coast via Manila
m.v. "Holland" early May Los Angeles & San Francisco

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S.S. "BENCRAUCHAN" U.K. End April
S.S. "SAMAFERIC" U.K. End April

SAILINGS

LOADS FOR READY
S.S. "BENRINNES" London, Antwerp, Rotterdam 20th March
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Special Tanks available for carrying oil in bulk

ARRIVALS FROM N.Y. & OTHER U.S. PORTS

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M.S. "SALLY MAERSK" Middle May
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1947 Production Of Natural Rubber Likely To Soar

Forecasting that the 1947 world production of natural rubber would soar to a possible 1,500,000 long tons, an informed source says in London that the demand for synthetic rubber has now begun to decline. In 1946, 850,000 tons of natural rubber were produced.

This was in answer to questions prompted by the disclosure that the rubber statistical bulletin published on Wednesday showed synthetic rubber consumption had grown from an estimated 200,000 tons in 1943 to a record estimated 910,000 tons in 1946. Natural rubber consumption in 1946 was, by contrast, only 545,000 tons.

During the past year the bulletin showed world stocks of natural rubber rose some 300,000 tons.

Consumption during the year was nearly 2½ times greater than the available figures for consumption in 1945.

POST OFFICE**NOTICES****Outward Mails**

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Articles and Parcel Post close 10 minutes earlier than the time stated below—

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Airmail for Manila P.I. (Reg.) 9.35 a.m. (Ord.) 10 a.m.
Panama (Kwongchow) 10 a.m.
Swatow 10 a.m.
Rangoon and Rangoon Noon.
Shanghai 4 p.m.
Koumou 4 p.m.
Macau, Tientsin and Shikhi 4 p.m.
Canton (By Train) 4 p.m.

Airmail for Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Madras, Ceylon, Java, Hongkong, Amoy, Singapore, London, New York and Canada, Kowloon C.P.O. (Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.; G.P.O. (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Airmail for Canton, Kowloon and Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.
Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Shanghai 10 a.m.
Rangoon 10 a.m.
Straits and Malacca 3 p.m.
Macassar, Surabaya and Batavia 3 p.m.

A.A. Central and South America and Canada via Rio de Janeiro, Kowloon C.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2 p.m. (Ord.) 2.30 p.m.; G.P.O. (Par. and Reg.) 2.30 p.m. (Ord.) 3 p.m.
Airmail for Canton and Hoihow; Airmail for Kowloon (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Airmail for Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking; Airmail for Chungking (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

London Exchanges

On New York 4.07, 4.05, Montreal 4.07, 4.05, Zurich 17.40, 17.35, Block 14.37, 14.50, Buenos Aires unquoted, Brazil 75.416, Brazil (sellers) unquoted, Uruguay unquoted, Belgium 176.50, 176.75, Paris & French Empire 470.50, 480.20, Syria 800, 805, Latakia 98.50, 100.20, Swiss Bank Notes Middle 17.25, 17.50, Netherlands West India 7.80, Netherlands East India 10.50, 10.70, Holland 10.50, Panama 4.02, 4.04, Denmark 19.25, 19.35, Prague 201, 202, Norway 10.90, 10.92, Palestine 90 1/2, 10 1/4, Philippines 8.00, 8.14.

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Bank of England clearing rates: Mad. 10 1/2, Italy 71.25.

Free Market rates: India 17.04, 16.00, Australia 125.00, 125.50, New Zealand 124.37, 125.00, South Africa 100.50, 100.75, 120, Alexandria 97.375, 97.625, Singapore 24 1/2, 24 1/4, Hong Kong 1/2-10/16, 1/2-1/16, Philippines 8 1/2, 8 1/4, Hainan 1/5-1/16, 1/5-1/16.

Special A/C rates: Lima 28.10, 28.15, London 168.62, 170.82, Valparaiso 100.625, 101.300, Turkey 1128.40, 1130.68, Uruguay 7.10, 7.20.

General American A/C rates: Mexico 10.45, 10.65, Bogota 7.05, 7.12, Buenos Aires 10.45, 10.65.

The stock markets opened their new account in a firm but quiet manner. There was a general feeling of uncertainty, sections hinged on that of the market for British Government securities, which closed 1/4 to 1/2 higher.

There was a slight turnover of shares in the South African gold shares, on Cape support which led to some revival of local interest but nothing outstanding occurred in commodity shares other than in futures, which were easier where changed.

Increased activity was seen in both South American rails and bonds, where Brazilian provided the chief interest. Industrials and a whole undercurrent of little change. India was inclined to be a seller of the few of her specialties but such business was of small importance.

Shipping loans were generally easier apart from Oceanic Steam Navigation and King Lines, however.

Kwong Sang Hong 21 1/2; Wing On (HK) 93 1/2; Wm. Powell, Ltd. 8 1/2; Miscellaneous, Entertainment 24 1/2; 4 1/2; Maramba Inv. (Lon.) 1/2-1/4; 1/2-1/4; 1/2-1/4.

Kwong Sang Hong 21 1/2; Wing On (HK) 93 1/2; Wm. Powell, Ltd. 8 1/2; Miscellaneous, Entertainment 24 1/2; 4 1/2; Maramba Inv. (Lon.) 1/2-1/4; 1/2-1/4; 1/2-1/4.

Kwong Sang Hong 21 1/2; Wing On (HK) 93 1/2; Wm. Powell, Ltd. 8 1/2; Miscellaneous, Entertainment 24 1/2; 4 1/2; Maramba Inv. (Lon.) 1/2-1/4; 1/2-1/4; 1/2-1/4.

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Kwong Sang

